

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03422 191300Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DRC-01 /069 W

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R 182326Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4802

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, CA

SUBJECT; OPPOSITION ADDRESS ON DEFENSE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE DEFENSE CRITIC ALLAN MCKINNON SPOKE IN COMMONS OCTOBER 10 DEALING LARGELY WITH DEFENSE MATTERS. HE WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF GOC FOR "LOADING ROLE ON TOP OF ROLE" ON ARMED FORCES WHILE "THROTTLING" DEFENSE BUDGET-- BY INCREASING BUDGET ONLY 7 PERCENT IN TIME OF HIGH INFLATION. HE DESCRIBED SEA, AIR, AND LAND FORCES EQUIPMENT AS EITHER OBSOLETE OR UNSUITED TO ASSIGNED TASKS, AND CALLED GOC DEFENSE PERFORMANCE UNSATISFACTORY COMPARED WITH OTHER NATO MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. MCKINNON NOTED CANADA IS NEXT TO LAST OF 13 NATO NATIONS IN PERCENT OF GNP FOR DEFENSE; HAS LESS MEN PER CAPITA IN ARMED FORCES THAN ANY EUROPEAN NATO OR WARSAW PACT NATION; AND SPENDS ALMOST 90 PERCENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET ON PAY AND ALLOWANCES, THUS RESTRICTING EXPENDITURES FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT. WITHOUT PREJUDGING ISSUES INVOLVED, HE CALLED FOR STUDY OF CANADIAN ROLE IN NORAD, AND CANADIAN POSITION ON ACCEPTING ATOMIC WEAPONS.

3. MCKINNON SAID TASK FOR NAVAL FORCES IN FUTURE

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03422 191300Z

LIKELY BE PRESERVATION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN COASTAL

WATERS RATHER THAN ASW, AND THAT DDH-280 DESTROYERS TOO EXPENSIVE AND ILL-FITTED FOR THIS ROLE, SUGGESTING SMALL GUNBOATS WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

4. REGARDING AIR ELEMENT MCKINNON DESCRIBED GOC MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS UNSUITED TO ASSIGNED ROLES. HE DOUBTED GOC READINESS TO PROCURE LONG RANGE PATROL AIR CRAFT TO REPLACE ARGUS AND DESCRIBED POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS AS "LAST OF PRODUCTION RUN FROM AMERICAN FACTORY"..

5. MCKINNON CITED ARLIER GOC PROMISES TO PROCURE NEW TANKS AND NOTED ARMORED FORCES NOW EQUIPPED WITH 30 CENTURION TANKS OF 1946 VINTAGE.

6. PRAISING "PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERTISE" OF CANADIAN FORCES, MCKINNON SAID DETERIORATING EQUIPMENT AND POSSIBLE PERSONNEL CUTS HAD RESULTED IN LOW MORALE, AND THAT FURTHER BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS WOULD DO SERIOUS HARM.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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